Government. The educational measures are taken by both Central and State Governments. The enforcement of Motor Vehicle regulations is the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Measures taken by Central Government are:

(1) Provision of refresher training to drivers of heavy motor vehicles.
(2) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media.
(3) Grants-in-aid to voluntary organizations for administoring road safety programmes.
(4) Encouraging use of simulators in driver's training.
(5) Institution of National Award for voluntary organisations/individuals for outstanding work in the field of road safety.
(6) Organising All India Essay Competition on road safety for school children with a view to create awareness.
(7) Tightening of fitness norms for transport vehicles.
(8) Widening/improvement of roads, etc.

Removal of quantitative restrictions

5096. SHRISURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment regarding the role of Small Scale Industries reservations in the backdrop of the removal of quantitative restrictions;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) how Government propose to safeguard the interests of Small Scale Industries?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (DR C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) The role of Small Scale Industries (SSIs) reservation in the backdrop of removal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) is constantly being assessed/ monitored by the Government. While the removal of QRs on imports has implied greater integration of the Indian economy with the world, it is necessary that in the transition period employment, balanced regional growth and utilization of local resources by local entrepreneurs is promoted through support to SSIs. This is sought to be achieved through the policies and programmes for the Sector including the policy of reservation for exclusive manufacture in this sector.

(c) To safeguard the interest of the Small Scale Industries, Government has already announced a Comprehensive Policy Package for SSIs on 30th August, 2000 in order to strengthen the SSI sector and enhance its competitiveness both

domestically and globally. The package inter-alia provides for easier access to credit, availability of collateral free loans upto Rs. 25.00 lakhs, composite loans upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure.

SSI facing international competition

5097 SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small Scale Industries are facing the international competition after the removal of quantitative restrictions under the World Trade Organisation arrangement from April, 2001;

(b) if so, whether it is fact that the Small Scale Industries are facing a tough competition with China, Singapore and other countries whose product of better quality are available at cheaper prices in the Indian market; and

(c) if so, steps being taken by Government keeping in view the above facts?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) Removal of Quantitative Restrictions have exposed the SSIs to greater competition with China, Singapore and other countries. However, the Small Scale Industries in India have shown resilience to withstand the impact of phasing out quantitative restrictions as is evident from their track record.

(c) Government is constantly monitoring the impact of the removal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) on the economy including the Small Scale Industries (SSIs) in the country. Even after the removal of QRs, protection to the industries is available in the form of raising custom duties upto the bound levels, imposing anti-dumping duties and taking safeguard measures in case of surge in imports. Government has also put in place several measures to strengthen the small scale industries to make them globally competitive. These include special focus on areas such as technology upgradation, infrastructure assistance through cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modem management practices, use of electronic infrastructure and other IT applications to face the emerging challenges of trade liberalization.

SSIs in Assam

5098. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new Small Scale Industries/Units set up in Assam during the last five years till date;